



The Midway Town Board of 1960 includes, seated, left to right, Reed Gertsch, Earl Kohler, president, Grace W. Sonderegger, secretary. Back row, Fay Van Wagoner, Eugene Probst and Leo Luke.

not established until 1893, and prior to that time, letters and news came through any available means from Provo and later Park City.

The early residents of Midway kept alive their family ties, and kept up to date on current news through the occasional riders that brought saddle bags of mail up from Provo. Descendants of some of the early Midway people have recounted tales of the anxious hours of waiting for the man on horseback to carry the mail up the rough trail through Provo Canyon, and of the great thrill of receiving mail.

Sidney H. Epperson, the presiding elder, once had a large crowd gather at his home as they waited for a newspaper to arrive reporting the outcome of the Sullivan-Kilrain championship boxing match that had been fought a month earlier on the Mississippi.

Many waited for news of events of the great Civil War, and tremblingly opened letters that told of their loved ones who were engaged in the conflict.

The mail that came by horseback through Provo Canyon usually had been carried across the continent by wagons following trails that began where rail lines ended. The co-op store operated by Bishop David Van Wagonen was a central meeting spot in the community, and soon became the location where people waited for the mails. So, when the post office was officially established in 1893 the Van Wagonen store was the logical post office and the proprietor the choice for postmaster.

Bishop Van Wagonen served as postmaster until 1897 when Mary



The Midway Recreation Center, begun as a community project in 1939 and completed in 1941. It was dedicated June 13, 1941. The building includes a large gymnasium, the post office, town board, offices, meeting rooms for the Daughters of Utah Pioneers and rooms for many community organizations and groups.

away, and forbidding the afflicted persons to leave the premises. This practice has since been discontinued.

Following the administration of William Haueter, Francis Probst was elected town board president. He directed the building of community tennis courts before he resigned to accept a missionary call for the Church. Earl J. Kohler was appointed to fill the unexpired term, and is continuing to serve. With him on the board are Fay Van Wagoner, Grant Remund, Eugene Probst and Reed Gertsch. Grace W. Sonderegger is clerk.

Under this board's direction, many community improvements are going forward, including work on the ball park, oiling Midway streets, improving the cemetery ground, repairing and extending the culinary water system and redecorating the recreation center.

MIDWAY AND THE MAIL

With the exception of WPA and other depression-recovery programs, Midway's main contact with the federal government has been through the post office. The first government post office, however, was